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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : (U.S. National Phase Appln.
based on PCT/JP2004/017824)

Applicant : Yukinori IIZUKA et al

Filed : Concomitantly herewith

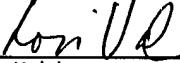
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DETECTING CRATER END OF
CONTINUOUSLY CASE PRODUCT...

Docket No. : 06334/HG

Customer No.: 01933

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Lori Valdes

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED
CONCOMITANT WITH APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendment to the Specification begins on page 2 of this
paper.

Amendment to the Claims are reflected in the listing of
claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.